

somewhat unusual, although it had been done also b> a member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, and criticised at the time by those who were beginning, moie and more openly, to express their hostility to the Corn-mission The statement about nationalisation contained in the Sankey Report, a document -which the Go\ eminent had promised to honour in letter and in spirit, made the Com-mission look dangerous From the point of \ ie\ v of those who were, in the press and elsewhere, at this stage, rallying opinion against re-organisation, to ha\ e Sidne> Webb give evidence was, of course, a very serious mistake

The basis of his evidence was a chapter m a work published by him in 1916, entitled *How to Pay for the War*, containing a scheme for the Nationalisation of the Coal Supply It was a perfectly clear and coherent scheme for State ownership, financed by a Go\ ernment issue of stock

When he took the witness stand at the end of April 1919, he declared, bluntly, that "the root cause of the relative inefficiency of the British coal supply is its foundation on private profit making " The supply of coal ought to be a public service, run "with all due regard to economy " It could be run, when such a public service, so he believed, with a consequent greater efficiency Some of the Com-missioners tried, hard, to pin him down to saying what he had not in fact said but without conspicuous success Thus, Mr R W Cooper asked.

"Do you suggest that persons who \ork are animated by a love of work rather than personal advantage to themselves ?"

He replied.

"I do not say 'love of work' Unfortunatoh, only a
small proportion of the people who work in the \world' are
able to work in
a way which they can reasonably be expected to
love, but I do
suggest that the majority of the work in the world
is done already
out of a sense of duty That may seem strange,
but I hold to